



Minnesota Association
of Healthcare Volunteers

2020 President's Report

Jane Denovchek, MAHV President

One word accurately sums up our year: pandemic. Like our member organizations, traditional events and activities were cancelled. Volunteers were sidelined from their regular assignments and, in most cases, from being in their facilities at all. For MAHV, this meant no Legislative Day, annual conference, or spring and fall forums, along with no in person MAHV board meetings. How we have missed these face-to-face opportunities for gathering, learning and sharing.

Our partner organizations [Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA), LeadingAgeMN and Minnesota Health Care Gift Shop Association (MHCGSA)] continue to face their own challenges. MHA withdrew their annual funding support for MAHV for 2020 and 2021 (\$5,500 annually). MHGSA cancelled its annual spring buying event as gift shops across the state remain largely closed. Liaison positions to the MAHV board from MHA, LeadingAgeMN and MHCGSA are currently vacant due to a variety of changes at our partner organizations. We are hopeful that the impact of these changes is temporary.

What we have been able to do:

- Recognize the financial impact of the pandemic on local fundraising. As we have been good stewards of our MAHV resources, we are able to waive membership fees for all member organizations for 2021. We are also offering complimentary one-year memberships for new members in 2021.
- Offered a free webinar to members in September "Give Graciously and Watch Your Garden Grow" with Kelly Radi, who was slated to be one of our conference speakers. More than 80 people registered for the event. Members can find a video of her session in the "members only" section of the website.
- Conducted zoom meetings with Districts. We paired districts and were able to share information and ideas across the state.
- Established an e-newsletter and continued communication via our District Chairs.
- Established a monthly recognition/celebration of outstanding volunteers, to start January 2021.
- Continued quarterly collaboration conversations with MAHV counterparts in Wisconsin, North Dakota and Iowa (Note: they are experiencing the same challenges as Minnesota)

We salute our volunteer mask makers across the state, all that individual volunteer groups have done to support and thank front line employees in their facilities, therapy dogs who did many parades outside our hospitals, long term and assisted living places, and those who hopped on the virtual bandwagon to visit residents, tutor students and continue to conduct the business of your volunteer organization. Thanks to all for keeping yourselves and your families safe during this challenging year by wearing masks, keeping your distance and practicing good hand hygiene.

